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Glendive - Marsh - Baker Road

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GLENDIVE

June
1963

GLENDIVE-MARSH-BAKER ROAD

There is also another project here in Dawson County about which I have been hearing considerable in the past year or so--the need for improving and paving the Glendive-Marsh-Baker road. I recognize the importance of this road to the farm-to-market traffic as well as service to the oil industry.

In this particular instance we are faced with a circumstance whereby there are no funds available for the construction work under any existing highway program or combination thereof. The County of Dawson has not been able to schedule the project in its secondary highway program, there is no primary mileage available to Montana for designation in this area and the land ownership is not sufficiently controlled by the Federal government to merit an all Federally financed project. I have explored this problem with a number of experts in Washington, D. C. and there isn't a Federal road building program which will take care of the immediate situation.

Senator Metcalf and I did however implement the recommendations of the State Legislature and introduced legislation which would permit a State to increase the mileage of its Federal-aid primary system when provision is made for the completion and maintenance of 75 per cent thereof. The enactment of such a proposal would be very helpful to Montana

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in increasing its primary mileage. Should this proposal become a reality the State Highway Commission might then designate some additional primary mileage on a project like the Marsh-Baker road or the north-south highway in eastern Montana which has considerable support.

Shortly before leaving Washington I wrote the Chairman of the Senate Public Works Committee asking that he schedule hearings on Senator Metcalf's and my bill S. 1282 at the earliest possible date. At that time we can obtain the views of the Bureau of Public Roads and ascertain the possibilities of getting this legislation passed in the 88th Congress.

United States Senate
Office of the Majority Leader
Washington, D.C.

May 27, 1963

Honorable Pat McNamara, Chairman
Committee on Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Early in April Senator Lee Metcalf and I introduced S. 1282, a bill which would "permit a State to increase the mileage of its Federal-aid primary system when provision is made for the completion and maintenance of 75 per centum thereof."

This proposal was endorsed in its last session by the Montana State Legislature and would be of tremendous value to States such as Montana, that are large in area with a considerable amount of primary mileage and limited financial resources due in part to a relatively small population.

This proposal has been well received in the State because there are a number of meritorious proposals in the State for making additions to the primary system which would facilitate improved highway travel throughout the state in addition to the Interstate System. At the present time Montana's allocation of primary mileage is oversubscribed and the passage of S. 1282 would make it possible to consider some of the reasonable requests.

It is my hope that your Committee will be able to ascertain the views of the Department of Commerce and other interested agencies in the very near future so that a public hearing might be scheduled to discuss the proposal. Your cooperation in bringing about early and favorable consideration of this measure would be most appreciated.

With best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,